

DECEMBER 26.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M.D., in the Chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

*Presentation of a Portrait of Carolus Linnæus by Mr. Charles E. Smith.*—The Secretary called attention to a life-size portrait in oil of the great naturalist, and, presenting it to the Academy on behalf of Mr. Smith, he read the following account of the way in which the painting had been secured:

*Ladies and Gentlemen* :—It is my pleasant task this evening to present to you and to the Academy a full-length oil portrait of Linnæus, taken in his early manhood, in the dress he wore when making his trip to Lapland—the only copy in this country. I have been in search of it about twenty years.

Sometime in the fifties, when we were at the corner of Broad and Sansom streets, we received a number of steel engraved likenesses of Linnæus, which the members were asked to buy, the proceeds to be devoted to the erection of a tablet to Linnæus at Upsala.

When we moved to this building, in 1876, I was in correspondence with Mrs. S. M. Rust, President of the Ladies' Botanical Club, of Syracuse, N. Y. I asked her if she had seen the engraving—if not, if she would like to have a copy. She replied that she had not seen it, and would like to have one very much.

I came here and asked Dr. Nolan for a copy of it. He replied that he had none, and had not seen one since we had moved. I then went to Mr. Lindsay, dealer in engravings, and asked him to get me one. He wrote to various correspondents in the different capitals of Europe, without success. I was much perplexed. At last I had a bright idea. I got Mr. William Bell, one of our best photographers, to make a copy slightly enlarged, which I sent to Syracuse.

Mrs. Rust, in her reply, said: "This likeness is not vouched for. It has not even his name appended to it. How do you know that it is Linnæus? It is too handsome for a man who knew so much. These very handsome men never do know much. I do not believe it is Linnæus. Where is the original portrait?" This raised a new question. I then tried to find the original portrait. A letter was written to the Royal Academy of Sciences, at Stockholm, Sweden, asking where the original picture was. This elicited no answer. In my correspondence with the Linnæan Society of London, they mentioned that the original picture was at Amsterdam, Holland. This was my first clue.

Our late member, Dr. J. J. Levick, was going to Europe soon after this. I gave him a photograph and asked him to keep a lookout for it in the picture galleries. When he was in Amsterdam one day, in a street-car, he met an American friend, who asked him where he was going. He replied, "To the Academy of Fine Arts, to find a portrait of Linnæus for a friend." A lady, sitting beside him, who understood English, turned to him and very kindly said: "You will not find that picture at the Academy of Fine Arts. It is in the library of the Zoölogical Garden at the other end of the city." The name of the Zoölogical Society of Amsterdam is *Natura Artis Magistra*; the garden is popularly called *Artis*. He went there and found it. It is the original of the engraving. I wrote to the Society, and asked if they would allow the picture to be copied, and would name an artist of repute, who would be the best to do it. To this I got no answer.

I have a nephew, Dr. Charles E. Smith, of St. Paul, Minn. One of his patients is the Hon. Stanford Newel, our minister to La Hague, Holland. I wrote to Mr. Newel, introducing myself as the uncle of my nephew, asking his aid. He replied promptly and warmly. In selecting an artist he examined the work of about twenty of them. He asked the advice of Mr. Beaufort, the Minister of State of Holland. They fixed on Mr. Boudewijnse. They also ascertained that the *Artis* picture is itself a copy. The original belongs to Baron Verschuer, and is in his country home near Haarlem, twenty-three miles from La Hague. He was asked if he would allow a copy of it to be made. He assented, but required that it be done at his house—that the picture could not be taken away. The artist objected to this, as the light was not good. He said he could not do justice to the picture or to himself unless he had it in a proper light. The baron then yielded the point, and we have the picture.

If it affords you half as much satisfaction to receive it as it does me to give it, I shall be amply repaid.

There are two remarkable blunders in the picture. The second scientific trip of Linnæus' life was to Lapland. On it he discovered *Linnea borealis*, described and named after him by Gronovius, the common name of which is twin flower, because each stem bears two flowers. Linnæus loved this plant very much. When he was ennobled by the king of Sweden, he chose *Linnea* for his crest.

Stockholm stands on a number of rocky islands, some of them quite small. One of them is called Ritterholm, the Knights' Island. When I was there in 1850, there was but one building on it, called the Ritterholm Kirk—the Swedish Wälhalla. It contains statues of all the great men of Sweden, among them Linnæus. It is of white marble. He stands with an open book in his hand, on its page is an outline of *Linnea*.

This picture represents him holding in his right hand two specimens of *Linnaea*, a tall one and a short one. The tall one has three flowers and the short one only one, so that neither of them is a twin flower. The leaves of *Linnaea* are orbicular-spatulate, very obtuse and coarsely toothed. In the picture they are ovate-cordate, acute and entire. That the artist should have thought that one weed looked just like another is natural enough, but that Linnæus should have overlooked these errors in his favorite plant is very strange.

The President accepted the gift, commenting on the Academy's obligation to the donor, and stating that the portrait would be hung in the museum in such a position as to secure the best possible illumination.

The following resolutions were proposed at the suggestion of Mr. Smith, and adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Academy of the Natural Sciences of Philadelphia be tendered to Baron Verschuer, of Holland, for his kindness in allowing the portrait of Linnæus, belonging to him, to be copied for the Academy.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Academy of the Natural Sciences of Philadelphia be tendered to the Hon. Stanford Newel for his judicious advice and valuable aid in securing for the Academy the portrait of Linnæus, copied by Mr. Boudewijnse, now in its possession.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Academy be voted to Mr. Charles E. Smith for the life-size portrait in oil of Carolus Linnæus, presented by him this evening, a gift which is valued not only as a work of art, an adornment to the museum, and a memorial of one of the world's greatest naturalists, but also as an evidence of the continued interest of one to whom the society is indebted for active aid and encouragement, extending over nearly half a century.

The following were ordered to be printed: